California Weather-Hydro Conditions during August 2008

As of September 1, Water Year 2008 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 60 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 75 percent of average for the date. As of June 10, the date of the last forecast this water year, the projected median April-July runoff for the water supply basins ranged from 78% (Kings River) to 47% (Tule River). Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through August 31, 2008 was about 10.0 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 54% of average. (On August 31, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was also about 10.0 MAF or about 55% of average.)

On September 1, the Northern Sierra 8-station Index had a seasonal total of 34.8 inches, which is 71% of the seasonal average to date and 70% of an average Water Year (50.0"). Spring of 2008 has turned out to be extremely dry. For the 8-Station Index, the Water Year 2008 combined March through June total precipitation is only 3.4 inches, the driest on record (since 1921). The Water Year 2008, 8-Station Index, October through August total of 34.8 inches is the 16th driest year out of 88 years of record. The 2-year combined total precipitation for Water Years 2007 (37.2 inches) and 2008 (34.8 inches) is 72.0 inches, the 9th driest 2-year period on record.

January and early February brought significant amounts of precipitation to California, including heavy snowfall in the mountains. California's large water supply reservoirs received some inflow from these storms; however, the amounts were muted because much of the precipitation fell as snow. Because precipitation was significantly below average last year, dry hydrologic conditions prevail. Storage in most of the major water supply reservoirs is well below average. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are both forecasted to be "Critical."

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 09/01/2008 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2007 - 2008
Eureka	0.49	87	1.05	188	1
Redding	0.01	4	1.15	411	0
Sacramento	0.00	0	0.01	8	0
San Francisco	0.01	10	0.01	10	0
Fresno	0.01	50	0.02	100	0
Bakersfield	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
Los Angeles	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
San Diego	0.00	0	0.00	0	0

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 09/01/2008								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,259	1,834	69	2,448	51	---	1,189
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	1,566	2,959	53	4,552	34	-2,986	2,986
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,126	2,372	47	3,538	32	-2,412	2,412
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	566	651	87	966	59	-400	400
Folsom Lake	American	299	618	48	977	31	-678	678
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,130	1,373	82	2,420	47	-1,290	1,290
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,109	1,425	78	2,030	55	-921	921
Lake McClure	Merced	318	560	57	1,025	31	-701	707
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	227	228	99	520	44	-293	293
Pine Flat Res	Kings	127	385	33	1,000	13	-873	873
Isabella	Kern	143	211	68	568	25	-286	425
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	270	891	30	2,039	13	---	1,769

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for September 2008, issued August 31, 2008, forecasts below average precipitation for Northern and Central California, and average precipitation for Southern California.